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and other elections: election of fifteen members
of the Human Rights Council

Note verbale dated 14 April 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of the President of the General Assembly and, with reference to the decision of the Government of Georgia to present its candidature to the Human Rights Council for the period 2011-2014 and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/251, has the honour to transmit the voluntary pledges and commitments of Georgia with regard to its contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights (see annex).



Annex to the note verbale dated 14 April 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Candidature of Georgia to the Human Rights Council, 2011-2014

Voluntary pledges and commitments in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/251

1. Georgia is honoured to present its candidature to the Human Rights Council for the term of 2011-2014 as a confirmation of its commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights. Being a young democracy with a steadily improving human rights record, Georgia can play an important role in the Council's work in enhancing human rights at international, regional and national levels.
2. Georgia confirms its unequivocal support for all components of the United Nations human rights machinery and pledges its readiness to play an active role in the United Nations human rights protection system.
3. At the national level, since the 2003 Rose Revolution, Georgia has been consistently engaged in building a State based on the values of democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights and freedoms. Its efforts to shed the Soviet legacy have earned Georgia the place of a leading reformer in the rankings of a number of international institutions. Thanks to its commitment to reform, Georgia has become a responsible international player.
4. Reiterating its commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, Georgia, hereby makes the following voluntary pledges:

At the international level

- To fully cooperate with the Human Rights Council as set forth in General Assembly resolution 60/251 and promote its work, including in conflict areas worldwide, to strengthen the respect for and implementation of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, especially for the most vulnerable groups.
- To actively cooperate with and to contribute to the effectiveness of the universal periodic review mechanism. In this regard, Georgia will submit, on a voluntary basis, a midterm report on follow-up to accepted universal periodic review recommendations, in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 16/21. Georgia underwent the review procedure in an open and constructive manner in January 2011.
- To fully cooperate with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and support its activities.
- To closely cooperate with other human rights bodies, including those within the United Nations system and related agencies, as well as with the European Union, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and their relevant bodies.
- To continue to co-sponsor important universal human rights and humanitarian resolutions within the General Assembly.

- To cooperate fully with treaty monitoring bodies, submit national reports in a timely manner and take into account the relevant concluding observations and recommendations.
- To maintain its standing invitation to special procedures, receive their visits constructively and cooperate in the follow-up of the visits, as well as to contribute to the enhancement of the system of special procedures.
- To consider the opportunity to ratify those international and regional instruments to which it is not already a party (for a list of ratified instruments, see appendix), such as:
 - The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol
 - The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance
 - The Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
 - The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
 - The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

At the national level

- To further promote gender equality, the rights of women and the eradication of domestic violence, inter alia, through supporting the work of the Parliamentary Gender Equality Council and the implementation of the National Action Plan on Gender Equality developed in cooperation with civil society and international organizations.
- To direct further efforts towards the protection of the rights of the child and support the implementation of the National Action Plan on the Welfare of Children, with a special emphasis on childcare institutions, including alternative care systems, and programmes for homeless and street children.
- To continue its work to strengthen the protection and promotion of minority rights by supporting the implementation of its five-year National Action Plan on the National Concept of Tolerance and Civil Integration, developed through cooperation between the Ethnic Minority Council of the Public Defender's Office and the cross-sectoral Council of Tolerance and Civil Integration.
- To sustain efforts in the prevention, protection against and prosecution of human trafficking, by continually enhancing the effectiveness of its victim-centred national referral mechanism, establishing more victims' shelters and supporting the implementation of comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation.
- To maintain a strong commitment to protect against and prevent discrimination in all forms.
- To continue the collaboration with the Public Defender's Office to effectively address cases of ill-treatment and to work towards eradicating maltreatment in all types of detention facilities.

- To further promote legislative harmonization of national laws with international human rights standards, inter alia, by implementing the accepted recommendations made during the universal periodic review in a timely manner.
- To continue to provide support to the work of national inter-agency coordination councils, as well as to the engagement of civil society, public agencies and international organizations, in the crafting and implementation of human rights policy in Georgia.
- To support the constructive involvement of international partners engaged in national human rights dialogue to ensure the exchange of best practices and lessons learned.
- To uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights.

Appendix

Human rights instruments to which Georgia is a party

Universal Human Rights Conventions

1. Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field
2. Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea
3. Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War
4. Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War
5. Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I)
6. Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II)
7. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide
8. Convention on the Political Rights of Women
9. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
10. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
11. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
12. Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
13. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
14. Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction
15. Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
16. Convention on the Rights of the Child
17. Amendment to article 43 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child
18. Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
19. Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption
20. Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court
21. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
22. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict

23. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
24. Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

International Labour Organization Conventions

1. Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour (Convention No. 29)
2. Convention concerning Annual Holidays with Pay (Convention No. 52)
3. Convention concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize (Convention No. 87)
4. Convention concerning the Organization of the Employment Service (Convention No. 88)
5. Convention concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organize and to Bargain Collectively (Convention No. 98)
6. Convention concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value (Convention No. 100)
7. Convention concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour (Convention No. 105)
8. Convention concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation (Convention No. 111)
9. Convention concerning Basic Aims and Standards of Social Policy (Convention No. 117)
10. Convention concerning Employment Policy (Convention No. 122)
11. Convention concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment (Convention No. 138)
12. Convention concerning Vocational Guidance and Vocational Training in the Development of Human Resources (Convention No. 142)
13. Convention concerning Protection of the Right to Organize and Procedures for Determining Conditions of Employment in the Public Service (Convention No. 151)
14. Convention concerning Seafarers' Welfare at Sea and in Port (Convention No. 163)
15. Convention concerning Private Employment Agencies (Convention No. 181)
16. Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (Convention No. 182)

Council of Europe Human Rights Conventions

1. European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and its additional protocols, including protocol No. 14
2. European Agreement Relating to Persons Participating in Proceedings of the European Court of Human Rights

3. European Convention on the Legal Status of Children Born Out of Wedlock
4. Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data
5. European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
6. Protocol No. 1 to the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
7. Protocol No. 2 to the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
8. Sixth Protocol to the General Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Council of Europe
9. European Social Charter (revised)
10. Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities
11. Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine: Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine
12. Additional Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine, on the Prohibition of Cloning Human Beings
13. Protocol No. 1 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms
14. Additional Protocol to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine, on Transplantation of Organs and Tissues of Human Origin
15. Additional Protocol to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine, concerning Biomedical Research
16. Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings